

Amartya Sen

Quotes

*People, Thinking, Country, School, Opportunity, World, Children, Issues,
Development, Impact, Government, Needs, Community, Girl, Poverty, Identity,
Important, Taken, Military, Doe*

Poverty is not just a lack of money; it is not having the capability to realize one's full potential as a human being

~Amartya Sen

Economic growth without investment in human development is unsustainable - and unethical.

~Amartya Sen

The success of a society is to be evaluated primarily by the freedoms that members of the society enjoy.

~Amartya Sen

Poverty is the deprivation of opportunity.

~Amartya Sen

I believe that virtually all the problems in the world come from inequality of one kind or another.

~Amartya Sen

Empowering women is key to building a future we want

~Amartya Sen

Starvation is the characteristic of some people not having enough food to eat. It is not the characteristic of there being not enough food to eat.

~Amartya Sen

Freedoms are not only the primary ends of development, they are also among its principal means.

~Amartya Sen

Progress is more plausibly judged by the reduction of deprivation than by the further enrichment of the opulent

~Amartya Sen

No famine has ever taken place in the history of the world in a functioning democracy.

~Amartya Sen

Human ordeals thrive on ignorance. To understand a problem with clarity is already half way towards solving it.

~Amartya Sen

Imparting education not only enlightens the receiver, but also broadens the giver - the teachers, the parents, the friends.

~Amartya Sen

A society can be Pareto optimal and still perfectly disgusting.

~Amartya Sen

Economics, as it has emerged, can be made more productive by paying greater and more explicit attention to the ethical considerations that shape human behaviour and judgment.

~Amartya Sen

Sometimes the lack of substantive freedoms relates directly to economic poverty

~Amartya Sen

[Globalization] has enriched the world scientifically and culturally and benefited many people economically as well.

~Amartya Sen

There are Muslims of all kinds. The idea of closing them into a single identity is wrong.

~Amartya Sen

the identity of an individual is essentially a function of her choices, rather than the discovery of an immutable attribute

~Amartya Sen

Human life depends not only on income but also on social opportunities, [for example] what the state does for educating.

~Amartya Sen

While I am interested both in economics and in philosophy, the union of my interests in the two fields far exceeds their intersection.

~Amartya Sen

No substantial famine has ever occurred in a democratic country - no matter how poor.

~Amartya Sen

I really do believe that education, despite this massive potential in transforming human lives, has not received the kind of attention that people should have given to it.

~Amartya Sen

Violence is fomented by the imposition of singular and belligerent identities on gullible people, championed by proficient artisans of terror.

~Amartya Sen

A defeated argument that refuses to be obliterated can remain very alive.

~Amartya Sen

Globalization is a complex issue, partly because economic globalization is only one part of it. Globalization is greater global closeness, and that is cultural, social, political, as well as economic.

~Amartya Sen

Gender inequality is not one problem, it's a collection of problems.

~Amartya Sen

It is also very engaging - and a delight - to go back to Bangladesh as often as I can, which is not only my old home, but also where some of my closest friends and collaborators live and work.

~Amartya Sen

You have to be interested in inequality. The issue of inequality and that of poverty are not separable.

~Amartya Sen

Anything that increases the voice of young women tends therefore to reduce the fertility rate.

~Amartya Sen

It is important to reclaim for humanity the ground that has been taken from it by various arbitrarily narrow formulations of the demands of rationality

~Amartya Sen

The lack of economic freedom could be a very major reason for loss of liberty, liberty of life.

~Amartya Sen

People's identities as Indians, as Asians, or as members of the human race, seemed to give way - quite suddenly - to sectarian identification with Hindu, Muslim, or Sikh communities.

~Amartya Sen

Democracy is a universal value

~Amartya Sen

There are few subjects that match the social significance of women's education in the contemporary world.

~Amartya Sen

Unceasing change turns the wheel of life, and so reality is shown in all its many forms. Dwell peacefully as change itself liberates all suffering sentient beings and brings them great joy.

~Amartya Sen

Your voice is much more articulate and people listen to you if you've been to school. In family decisions, not surprisingly, the biggest impact in reducing fertility is girls' education.

~Amartya Sen

I think that so many of our abilities to do things depend on interaction with each other.

~Amartya Sen

The governments and the hard-headed military establishment and the general conservative part of America have never taken much interest in democracy, anyway.

~Amartya Sen

There is considerable evidence that women's education and literacy tend to reduce the mortality rates of children

~Amartya Sen

Poverty is not really as much of an obstacle to educational expansion as it's sometimes made out to be.

~Amartya Sen

If a theory of justice is to guide reasoned choice of policies, strategies or institutions, then the identification of fully just social arrangements is neither necessary nor sufficient.

~Amartya Sen

One has to be realistic. One's concern for equity and justice in the world must not carry one into the alien territory of unreasoned belief. That's very important.

~Amartya Sen

But the idea that I should be a teacher and a researcher of some sort did not vary over the years.

~Amartya Sen

Development cannot really be so centered only on those in power.

~Amartya Sen

Nearly everywhere Buddhism went, there had been a higher level of literacy, even in miserable Burma, not to mention Thailand and Sri Lanka.

~Amartya Sen

I left Delhi, in 1971, shortly after *Collective Choice and Social Welfare* was published in 1970.

~Amartya Sen

It was incredible to me that members of one community could kill members of another not for anything personal that they did but simply based on their identity.

~Amartya Sen

It's very easy to capture pictures of jubilant people in the street after the nuclear bomb. But there were no pictures of morose people sitting in their kitchens and living rooms.

~Amartya Sen

Resenting the obtuseness of others is not good ground for shooting oneself in the foot.

~Amartya Sen

I'm generally in favor of economic globalization. Having said that, it doesn't always work and does not immediately work in the interest of all. There are sufferers.

~Amartya Sen

I have not had any serious non-academic job.

~Amartya Sen

From the mid-1970s, I also started work on the causation and prevention of famines.

~Amartya Sen

The student community of Presidency College was also politically most active.

~Amartya Sen

You can't prevent undernourishment so easily, but famines you can stop with half an effort. Then the question was why don't the governments stop them?

~Amartya Sen

Opponents of globalisation may see it as a new folly, but it is neither particularly new, nor, in general, a folly.

~Amartya Sen

I was born in a University campus and seem to have lived all my life in one campus or another.

~Amartya Sen

Education can really transform the insecurities in the world into a bigger vision of what we are as human beings.

~Amartya Sen

In all kinds of ways there are different freedoms that effect our lives and

you can assess what our lives are like by looking at the various freedoms that we have.

~Amartya Sen

Thailand's economic development was driven by educational expansion. That has been a very dramatic factor, and South Asia had been pretty miserable in not learning from that experience.

~Amartya Sen

China had managed to reduce their fertility to a large extent because of basic expansion of women's education, not because of the one-child family.

~Amartya Sen

I remain instinctively hostile to communitarian philosophy and communitarian politics.

~Amartya Sen

We live in a world where there is a need for pluralistic institutions and for recognizing different types of freedom, economic, social, cultural, and political, which are interrelated.

~Amartya Sen

I don't think that India is much celebrated for its democracy. Democracy has been a very neglected commodity at home and abroad.

~Amartya Sen

I think education has a bigger impact on the lives of people than absolutely anything else.

~Amartya Sen

If jobs are important, education is important.

~Amartya Sen

Being able to read, write, do your sums really transforms a human being.

~Amartya Sen

Even though I'm pro-globalization, I have to say thank God for the anti-globalization movement. They're putting important issues on the agenda.

~Amartya Sen

I was told Indian women don't think like that about equality. But I would like to argue that if they don't think like that they should be given a real opportunity to think like that.

~Amartya Sen

[To organize a school] looks much more difficult in theory than it does in practice.

~Amartya Sen

Belonging to humanity is a great thing for us, and I think the schools can do it. So I think we can look after the quality of education on the school even as we expand the availability of schooling.

~Amartya Sen

Ultimately, imperialism made even the British working classes suffer. This is a point which the British working classes found quite difficult to swallow, but they did, actually.

~Amartya Sen

To say that the whole of the industrial experience of Europe and America just shows the rewards of exploiting the Third World is a gross simplification.

~Amartya Sen

I think the UN's role - especially since it's not an extremely rich fund,

and that's to put it mildly - is mainly to act as a leading thinker of the world in terms of how to think about the future.

~Amartya Sen

[N]o democracy with a free press has ever experienced a major famine.

~Amartya Sen

Capability is just a concept of what is it we're looking at. Now how far we can go along that and what new capabilities become possible is something we have to judge.

~Amartya Sen

The market economy succeeds not because some people's interests are suppressed and other people are kept out of the market, but because people gain individual advantage from it.

~Amartya Sen

Human life consists of doing certain things ... to take part in the life of the community; to be able to talk about subjects that interest me and there freedom of speech comes into it.

~Amartya Sen

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